AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): A headlamp for a vehicle which is constituted to form a light distribution pattern for a low beam, comprising:

a plurality of lighting units using semiconductor light emitting elements as light sources,

wherein a cutoff line forming unit for carrying out a light irradiation to form a cutoff line of the light distribution pattern for a low beam, a hot zone forming unit for carrying out a light irradiation to form a hot zone of the light distribution pattern for a low beam and a diffusion region forming unit for carrying out a light irradiation to form a diffusion region of the light distribution pattern for a low beam are used as the lighting units;

wherein the cutoff line forming unit, the hot zone forming unit and the diffusion region forming unit are provided in three stages; said three stages being an upper stage, lower stage, and middle stage; and said cutoff line forming unit is positioned in the middle stage.

2. (original): The headlamp for a vehicle according to claim 1, wherein the cutoff line forming unit includes a lighting unit of a projector type which is constituted to reflect a light emitted from a light source to be converged forward by a reflector and to irradiate the reflected light forward from the lighting unit through a projection lens provided in a forward part of the reflector.

3. (original): The headlamp for a vehicle according to claim 1, wherein the hot zone forming unit includes a lighting unit of a direct projection type which is constituted to irradiate a direct light emitted from the light source forward from the lighting unit through a condenser lens provided in a forward part of the light source.

4. (original): The headlamp for a vehicle according to claim 1, wherein the diffusion region forming unit includes a lighting unit of a reflection type which is constituted to reflect a light emitted from the light source forward from the lighting unit by the reflector.

5. (original): The headlamp for a vehicle according to claim 1, wherein the cutoff line forming unit includes a lighting unit of a projector type which is constituted to reflect a light emitted from a light source to be converged forward by a reflector and to irradiate the reflected light forward from the lighting unit through a projection lens provided in a forward part of the reflector,

the hot zone forming unit includes a lighting unit of a direct projection type which is constituted to irradiate a direct light emitted from the light source forward from the lighting unit through a condenser lens provided in a forward part of the light source, and

the diffusion region forming unit includes a lighting unit of a reflection type which is constituted to reflect a light emitted from the light source forward from the lighting unit by the reflector.

6. (canceled).

7. (currently amended): A headlamp, comprising:

a plurality of lighting units operable to form a light distribution pattern, the plurality of lighting units comprising:

a cutoff line forming unit operable to carry out a light irradiation to form a cutoff line of the light distribution pattern;

a hot zone forming unit operable to carry out a light irradiation to form a hot zone of the light distribution pattern; and

a diffusion region forming unit operable to carry out a light irradiation to form a diffusion region of the light distribution pattern;

wherein the cutoff line forming unit, the hot zone forming unit and the diffusion region forming unit are provided in three stages; said three stages being an upper stage, lower stage, and middle stage; and said cutoff line forming unit is positioned in the middle stage.

8. (original): The headlamp according to claim 7, wherein the plurality of lighting units include semiconductor light emitting elements as light sources.